

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

(No. 17 of 1882.

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th April 1882.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No.                      | Names of newspapers.                  | Place of publication.    | Number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>BENGALI.</b>          |                                       |                          |                        |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>          |                                       |                          |                        |   |
| 1                        | "Bhárat Shramajíví" ... ... ...       | Calcutta                 | 2,100                  |   |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i>      |                                       |                          |                        |   |
| 2                        | "Sansodhiní" ... ... ...              | Chittagong               | 600                    | 19th April 1882.                                    |
| 3                        | "Purva Pratidhwani" ... ... ...       | Ditto                    | .....                  |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                       |                          |                        |   |
| 4                        | "Ananda Bazar Patriká" ... ... ...    | Calcutta                 | 700                    | 24th ditto.   |
| 5                        | "Arya Darpan" ... ... ...             | Ditto                    | .....                  | 28th ditto.   |
| 6                        | "Bangabási" ... ... ...               | Ditto                    | .....                  | 22nd ditto.   |
| 7                        | "Bhárat Bandhu" ... ... ...           | Ditto                    | .....                  | 25th ditto.   |
| 8                        | "Bhárat Mihir" ... ... ...            | Mymensing                | 671                    | 18th ditto.   |
| 9                        | "Bengal Advertiser" ... ... ...       | Calcutta                 | 2,000                  |   |
| 10                       | "Bardwán Sanjivání" ... ... ...       | Burdwan                  | 296                    |   |
| 11                       | "Chárvártá" ... ... ...               | Sherepore, Mymensing     | .....                  | 17th ditto.   |
| 12                       | "Dacca Prakásh" ... ... ...           | Dacca                    | 350                    | 23rd ditto.   |
| 13                       | "Dút" ... ... ...                     | Calcutta                 | .....                  |   |
| 14                       | "Education Gazette" ... ... ...       | Hooghly                  | 745                    | 28th ditto.   |
| 15                       | "Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ... ... ...    | Comercolly               | .....                  | 22nd ditto.   |
| 16                       | "Halisahar Prakáshiká" ... ... ...    | Calcutta                 | .....                  | 22nd ditto.   |
| 17                       | "Hindu Ranjiká" ... ... ...           | Beauleah, Rájsháhye      | 200                    | 26th ditto.   |
| 18                       | "Mediní" ... ... ...                  | Midnapore                | .....                  |   |
| 19                       | "Murshidábád Patriká" ... ... ...     | Berhampore               | 487                    | 21st ditto.   |
| 20                       | "Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ... ... ...  | Ditto                    | .....                  |   |
| 21                       | "Navavibhákar" ... ... ...            | Calcutta                 | 850                    | 24th ditto.   |
| 22                       | "Paridarshak" ... ... ...             | Sylhet                   | .....                  | 16th ditto.   |
| 23                       | "Pratikár" ... ... ...                | Berhampore               | 275                    | 14th & 21st April 1882.                             |
| 24                       | "Rajshahye Samvád" ... ... ...        | Beauleah                 | .....                  |   |
| 25                       | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... ... ...    | Kakiná, Rungpore         | 250                    | 27th April 1882.                                    |
| 26                       | "Sádháraní" ... ... ...               | Chinsurah                | 500                    | 23rd ditto.   |
| 27                       | "Sahachar" ... ... ...                | Calcutta                 | 500                    | 19th ditto.   |
| 28                       | "Som Prakásh" ... ... ...             | Changripottá, 24-Perghs. | .....                  | 24th ditto.   |
| 29                       | "Sudhákar" ... ... ...                | Mymensing                | .....                  |   |
| 30                       | "Sulabha Samáchár" ... ... ...        | Calcutta                 | 4,000                  | 22nd ditto.   |
| 31                       | "Sríhatta Prakásh" ... ... ...        | Sylhet                   | 440                    |   |
| 32                       | "Tripurá Vártávaha" ... ... ...       | Commillah                | .....                  | 8th, 15th, and 22nd April 1882.                     |
| <i>Daily.</i>            |                                       |                          |                        |   |
| 33                       | "Samvád Prabhákar" ... ... ...        | Calcutta                 | 700                    | 21st to 27th April 1882.                            |
| 34                       | "Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" ... ... ... | Ditto                    | 300                    | 21st to 27th ditto.                                 |
| 35                       | "Samáchár Chandriká" ... ... ...      | Ditto                    | 625                    | 21st to 28th ditto.                                 |
| 36                       | "Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... ... ...  | Ditto                    | 500                    | 21st to 29th ditto.                                 |
| 37                       | "Prabháti" ... ... ...                | Ditto                    | .....                  | 24th to 29th ditto.                                 |
| 38                       | "Samáchár Sudhábarsan" ... ... ...    | Ditto                    | .....                  |   |
| <b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b> |                                       |                          |                        |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                       |                          |                        |   |
| 39                       | "Urdu Guide" ... ... ...              | Ditto                    | 365                    | 25th April 1882.                                    |

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>HINDI.</b>       |                                |                       |                        |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                |                       |                        |   |
| 40                  | " Behár Bandhu "               | Bankipore, Patna      | 500                    |   |
| 41                  | " Bhárat Mitra "               | Calcutta              | 500                    | 20th April 1882.                                    |
| 42                  | " Sár Sudhánidhi "             | Ditto                 | 200                    | 24th ditto.   |
| 43                  | " Uchit Bakta "                | Ditto                 | .....                  |   |
| <b>PERSIAN.</b>     |                                |                       |                        |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                |                       |                        |   |
| 44                  | " Jám-Jahán-numá "             | Ditto                 | 250                    | 21st ditto.   |
| <b>URDU.</b>        |                                |                       |                        |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                |                       |                        |   |
| 45                  | " Akhbár-i-Darussaltanat "     | Ditto                 | .....                  | 26th ditto.   |
| <b>ASSAMESE.</b>    |                                |                       |                        |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                |                       |                        |   |
| 46                  | " Assam Vilásini "             | Sibsagar              | .....                  |   |
| <b>URIYA.</b>       |                                |                       |                        |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                |                       |                        |   |
| 47                  | " Utkal Dípiká "               | Cuttack               | 200                    | 15th ditto.   |
| 48                  | " Utkal Darpan "               | Balasore              | 160                    | 16th ditto.   |
| 49                  | " Balasore Samvad Váhika "     | Ditto                 | 125                    |   |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> |                                |                       |                        |   |
| 50                  | " Mayurbhunj Pákshik Pátriká " | Mayurbhunj            | .....                  |   |
| <b>HINDI.</b>       |                                |                       |                        |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                |                       |                        |   |
| 51                  | " Kshatriya Patriká "          | Patna                 | .....                  |   |

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

The *Tripura Vártávaha*, of the 8th April, condemns the needless expenditure of public funds which is occasionally incurred by Government. The good that accrues is not always found to be

The formation of a new district in Sylhet. proportionate to the outlay. The reason which has led the Editor to make these observations is furnished by an announcement made in the *Paridarshak* newspaper, that Government contemplates the creation of a new district charge in Southern Sylhet, which shall comprise the northern portions of the Tipperah district. The proposed measure is open to the following objections :—(1) Tipperah has been considerably reduced in local extent by the transfer of certain of its sub-divisions and thanahs to other districts. If any further reductions were made, it would remain a district only in name. (2) The transfer of the northern portions of Tipperah to Sylhet would take away from the inhabitants the advantage they now enjoy of being able to come to Commillah by the Brahmanberia road, and of the prospective benefit, in the event of the proposed railway being constructed, of travelling by rail from Commillah to Calcutta. (3) The trade of Commillah, which has already declined in consequence of the transfer of the southern portions of the district to Noakholly, would be still further injured. (4) The inhabitants of the portions of the district that would be transferred to Assam would be governed by laws in force in non-regulation provinces. This would doubtless be a hardship to them. (5) The proposed arrangement would prove both costly and inconvenient to the people.

TRIPURA VARTAVAH  
April 8th, 1882.

2. The same paper, of the 22nd April, contains an article on Sir Ashley Eden, in which the writer takes an unfavourable view of the late Lieutenant-Governor's administration on lines indicated in our last Report.

TRIPURA VARTAVAH  
April 22nd, 1882.

3. The *Pratikár*, of the 14th April, remarks that the administration of Sir Ashley Eden has not been beneficial, and in reference to his appointment to the India Council, expresses a hope that the Secretary of State may not be guided by his advice.

PRATIKAR,  
April 14th, 1882.

4. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 17th April, thus concludes a long retrospect of the Bengali year 1288, which has just ended :—Where is the country where reigns eternal night? or the sky which is enveloped in eternal gloom? Why should India think with despondency of her future? Are there no oases in the Sahara? no harbours in the tumultuous sea? Lord Ripon has inaugurated a liberal policy in India. The rights of natives have begun to be respected; their outcries no longer vanish into thin air. They have learnt to understand their rights and interests. A current of political agitation now flows through every stratum of native society. What fear is there, when Lord Ripon is Viceroy and Major Baring is his counsellor? During his tours through Agra, Delhi, and other places in India, Lord Ripon has witnessed the miseries of the people, and heard the tales of their grievances. The confidence in, and reliance upon, Government which were rudely shattered by Lord Lytton's action, have during one year of Lord Ripon's generous rule regained their former strength. The dream of local self-government for the people of India is about to be at least partially realized. Whoever, in the teeth of these facts, would still persist in describing the future of India in gloomy colours, must doubtless be a person who had not observed the signs of the times with care.

CHARU VARTA,  
April 17th, 1882.

SOM PRAKASH,  
April 17th, 1882.

The projected railway in Maldah  
and Purneah.

5. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 17th April, received in this office on the 24th instant, remarks that the projected railway line from Dinagepore *via* Chanchal and Guágachi to Purneah, should, if it be really intended to promote the interests of trade, take a route slightly different from that decided upon by the surveyors. The route selected for the portion of the line from Dinagepore to Chanchal is the best that could be taken, but that chosen for another section of the line, namely, that between Chanchal and Manihari, is open to objection on the ground that for a distance of 18 miles, until it reaches Heyatpore, the country to be traversed is lowland, and there is not one important village on the line of road. The writer therefore suggests that after starting from Chanchal, the projected line should pass through either Tulsihata or Hurischandrapore and Delhi Dewangunge, and thence through Guágachi to Manihari. This is a more direct route than the former, and passes through important centres of trade.

SOM PRAKASH.

6. The same paper remarks that the present Secretary of State for India is a man who, it would appear, cannot say nay to any request that may be made

to him by the merchants of Manchester ; but he has, on a question having been put to him by Mr. O'Donnell in the House of Commons, expressed himself unwilling to interfere with the present state of the Criminal Procedure Code, which makes an individual distinction between Europeans and Natives of India. He has equally refused to interfere with the working of the outstill system in Bengal. Now, what is the good of his occupying the high position he does, if he does not remove evils, even when convinced of their existence ?

SAHACHAR,  
April 19th, 1882.

7. The *Sahachar*, of the 19th April, contains a long article headed "Hindu Patriot and Sir Ashley Eden."

The Editor differs from the *Hindu Patriot*

in that journal's estimate of the late Lieutenant-Governor, and observes that no amount of reasoning could convince the people of these provinces that Sir Ashley Eden was really their friend. The Editor then discusses one by one the grounds, 16 in number, on which the *Hindu Patriot* has endeavoured to show that Sir Ashley's administration of Bengal has been eminently successful.

SAHACHAR.

8. In another article, the same paper remarks that, on analysis, it is found that, with two or three exceptions, the persons

who attended the recent meeting held in

Honor of Sir Ashley Eden were either zemindars of Calcutta or Officials, and they cannot, therefore, be regarded as representative men.

9. The same paper dwells on the injurious consequences that have resulted from the passing of the Indian Arms Act, and beseeches Lord Ripon to repeal

that measure without delay.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
April 21st, 1882.

The summer vacation in the schools  
and colleges of Bengal.

10. The *Murshidabad Patrika*, of the 21st April, points out the necessity of reducing the winter and increasing the summer vacation in the schools and colleges of Bengal. The cold season is the time of the year best suited for study and work, and there does not appear to be the least necessity of granting long holidays during this season. During the hot season, on the other hand, hard work, which students are required to go through, brings on disease. It is therefore suggested that the schools and colleges should be closed for one month on the occasion of the Doorga Pooja, and for two months in the hot season.

11. The *Bangabási*, of the 22nd April, is not prepared to say that the scheme of local self-government, as propounded by Sir Ashley Eden in a recent issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, has given satisfaction.

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government.

BANGABÁSI,  
April 22nd, 1882

According to the late Lieutenant-Governor Magistrates should be the Chairmen of the District Committees, and he is of opinion that the power of these officers should, on no account, be weakened, inasmuch as in times of danger it is to the Magistrates, and not to the District Committees, that Government must look for support. Sir Ashley Eden has not, however, shown how, if those Committees were vested with powers in the matter of roads, education, sanitation, &c., Government would be placed in a position of difficulty at any critical juncture. If his recommendations as to the appointment by Government of members to the Sub-divisional Committees and of Chairmen be accepted, the scheme of local self-government will doubtless prove a huge farce.

12. In an article on Sir Ashley Eden the same paper remarks that the late Lieutenant-Governor's administration of Bengal has not been successful, and that

Sir Ashley Eden.  
the review of his official career published in the *Hindu Patriot* is extremely onesided.

BANGABÁSI.

13. The *Halisahar Prakáshiká*, of the 22nd April, asks Lord Ripon to repeal the Indian Arms Act, and thus remove a just grievance of the people.

The Indian Arms Act.  
14. The *Grámvártá Prakáshiká*, of the 22nd April, contains an article on Sir Ashley Eden, condemning with very few exceptions the public measures of his administration.

Sir Ashley Eden.  
15. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 22nd April, remarks that the administration of Sir Ashley Eden has been a failure, owing to the circumstance that, along with certain attributes of greatness, he possessed certain faults. His character lacked sincerity, generosity, and impartiality.

HALISAHAR  
PRAKASHIKÁ,  
April 22nd, 1882.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKÁ,  
April 22nd, 1882.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
April 22nd, 1882.

16. The same paper remarks that in telegraphing to the Secretary of State for India that the people of this country are not opposed to the trade in opium carried on by Government, the British Indian Association of Calcutta has made a statement which is not true, and is at variance with the views held on this question by educated natives.

Sir Ashley Eden.  
17. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 22nd April, remarks that the recent Town Hall meeting in honour of Sir Ashley Eden was not a meeting of representative men,

and was of no value as an expression of public opinion.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 22nd, 1882.

18. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 24th April, observes, in the course of a long editorial, that free trade is not suited to the circumstances of this country. In fact, free trade can prove beneficial only between countries which both acknowledge the wisdom of the measure and entertain friendly feelings towards each other. Thus, both England and America are gainers by the adoption of free trade principles. In the matter of trade England and India are differently situated. The former exports her manufactures, the latter her agricultural products, the Indian manufactures having been ruined by foreign competition. The inevitable result of free trade between England and India, therefore, will be to make the people of this country to betake themselves largely to agriculture. This state of things can never be satisfactory, and if it continues the people will be gradually so impoverished that their extinction will only be a question of time.

SOM PRAKASH,  
April 24th, 1882.

SOM PRAKASH,  
April 24th, 1882.

19. The same paper asks Government to institute an enquiry into the causes of the widespread belief that the merchants of Manchester have begun to adulterate their piece-goods by the mixture of China clay, &c.

Adulteration of Manchester piece-goods.

20. The same paper remarks that the unquestioned success of the Indian Postal Department is almost entirely due to the honesty and industry of the rural

Post Masters. It is therefore exceedingly desirable that their present small pay should be increased. The writer suggests that the work of registration of assurances, &c., should be entrusted to these officers. By this means both Government and the people would be gainers.

SOM PRAKASH.

21. Among the proposals made by Sir Ashley Eden, remarks the same

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government.

paper, in connection with the scheme of local self-government, are some that are sound, and others that are not so. The Government of India is inviting opinion on the subject, and it is not likely that the scheme propounded by Sir Ashley Eden will be accepted in its entirety. The proposals made by him are in many respects similar to those which have come up from the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces. There is this great difference, however, between the two men, that whereas the former moves in the matter cautiously and with extreme unwillingness, the latter boldly suggests the appointment of Committees, and defines the duties that should be entrusted to them. This plan should be followed in Bengal. There should be local Committees charged with specific duties. The work will gradually create the man. The idea of a property qualification, favoured by Sir Ashley Eden for persons who may desire to have a seat on these Committees, is not a good one. What is required is that there should be provision for the election as members of only qualified men, otherwise the Committees would fail to enlist the respect and confidence of both the people and Government. The proposal to appoint magisterial officers as Chairmen is also open to objection on the ground that if it is accepted the Committees will lack independence. The better plan is to provide for the election of independent and qualified men as Chairmen in all places, but if such are not forthcoming in any place magisterial officers may be provisionally appointed as Chairmen.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
April 24th, 1882.

22. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 24th April, remarks in reference to the recent meeting held at the Town Hall for

Sir Ashley Eden.

the purpose of voting an address and monument

to Sir Ashey Eden that it did not express the views of the people of Bengal. One cannot in justice say that Sir Ashley's five years' rule of these provinces has not conferred a single benefit upon Bengalis. That he was able, energetic, liberal-minded, and favourably disposed towards Bengalis before he became Lieutenant-Governor everybody admits, but what everybody does not admit is that he leaves Bengal extremely indebted to him for his good government, that he loved Bengalis with his whole heart, or that none of his predecessors governed so well as he. The fact is he has accomplished some good, but there should not be so much parade about it. The one besetting fault of his administration was that it was opposed to the liberty of the people.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

23. The same paper observes that the proposal made by Sir Ashley

Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government.

Eden in his scheme of local self-government

to the effect that Magistrates should have

the power of nominating members for Sub-divisional Boards will, if accepted, result in the appointment of inefficient persons who will show their subserviency to the official Chairmen. The time has not indeed yet come when the elective system could be introduced everywhere, but if there is

to be real self-government, the evils of nomination must be removed. It is indeed a wise suggestion made by Sir Ashley Eden that the number of non-official members in the Sub-divisional Board should be double that of the official members, but of what avail will this be if the non-official element is found subservient to the Magistrate? It would be better if the task of nomination were left in the hands of a Committee composed of the District Judge, District Magistrate, and a few competent and high-placed native officers, and a provision were made that in the event of a certain number of people opposing any nomination it should be invalid. The proposal to appoint Magistrates as Chairmen is also open to objection. The District Judge would be an excellent Chairman.

24. In another article on the same subject, the same paper observes that the proposal made by Sir Ashly Eden

The same subject.  
respecting a property qualification to be required of candidates desiring to have a seat on the Sub-divisional Board will, if accepted, have the effect of excluding the great majority of educated natives of the country from the benefit of local self-government.

25. The same paper directs the attention of Lord Ripon to the Government and the Rajah of the Susanga Hills.  
injustice that has been for a long time past done by Government to the Rajah of the Susanga Hills. His lawful rights have been

ignored, and in spite of the decision of the High Court and the Privy Council in his favour, Government has encroached upon his property.

26. The same paper expresses a hope that the administration of the Mr. Rivers Thompson.  
new Lieutenant-Governor will be marked by a broad sympathy with all classes of the

people, a quality which Sir Ashly Eden lacked.

Sir Ashley Eden.  
27. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 28th April, contains an unfavorable notice of Sir Ashley

Eden's administration.

28. On the subject of Sir Ashley Eden's scheme of local self-government, the *Prabháti*, of the 27th April, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 21.

29. The *Urdu Guide*, Sir Ashley Eden.  
of the 25th April, remarks that the cause of Sir Ashley Eden's exceeding popularity lay in his ready courtesy to all persons, and his

love for the people of these provinces.

30. The *Utkal Dipiká*, The Indian Arms Act.  
of the 15th April, requests Lord Ripon to exercise his independent judgment in considering the advisability of repealing the Indian

Arms Act and not to be guided by the opinion of the local authorities, who it seems are mostly in favour of the measure remaining in force in all the provinces except Bengal.

31. The *Utkal Darpana*, Government aided schools.  
of the 16th April, in an article on aided schools, requests Government, among other things, not to withdraw its aid from mofussil schools.

NAVAVIBHAKA<sup>R</sup>,  
April 24th, 1882.

NAVAVIBHAKA<sup>R</sup>.

ARYA DARPAN,  
April 28th, 1882.

PRABHÁTI,  
April 27th, 1882.

URDU GUIDE,  
April 25th, 1882.

UTKAL DIPÍKA,  
April 16th, 1882.

UTKAL DARPANA,  
April 16th, 1882.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 29th April 1882.

Bengal Sect. Press—H. P. & others.—Reg. No. 1354C—52—2-5-63.

